

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 STATE 062798

61

ORIGIN EB-03

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /004 R

66610

DRAFTED BY: EB/PMCGONAGLE:MH

APPROVED BY: EB:JLKATZ

----- 004425

O 200146Z MAR 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE STATE 062798

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY ENDERS

FOLLOWING REPEAT GENEVA 1890 ACTION SECSTATE WHITE HOUSE

INFO EC BRUSSELS 19 MAR

QUOTE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MTN GENEVA 1890

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, GATT

SUBJECT: MTN: AGRICULTURE GROUP MEETING, MARCH 24

REF: (A) STATE 032200; (B) STATE 057274

WHITE HOUSE FOR SEIDMAN

PASS STR FOR GUENTHER, WILLIAMS FOR ACTION

1. SUMMARY. CONVERSATIONS WITH A LARGE NUMBER OF
FOREIGN MTN DELEGATIONS INDICATE THAT THE DEVELOPED
COUNTRY PARTICIPANTS ARE PLANNING IN THE NEXT WEEK'S
MEETING OF THE AGRICULTURE GROUP TO CONSIDER THIS AS
A NEGOTIATING GROUP AND TO SUPPORT THE CREATION OF
COMMODITY SUBGROUPS. GUIDANCE DELEGATION HAS CONCERNING
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 STATE 062798

TREATMENT OF AGRICULTURE IN MTN AND THE CREATION OF A

SUBGROUP ON GRAINS IN THE AGRICULTURE GROUP IS CONTAINED IN REFTELS. SINCE U.S. MAY BE ISOLATED IN ITS PROCEDURAL APPROACH TO TREATMENT OF AGRICULTURE IN THE MTN, GUIDANCE IS NEEDED ON OBJECTIVES THAT SHOULD BE OBTAINED IN THE FORTHCOMING AGRICULTURE GROUP MEETING, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT PROBABLE POSITIONS OF MAJOR DEVELOPED COUNTRY PARTICIPANTS. END SUMMARY.

2. IN RECENT DAYS WE HAD CONVERSATIONS WITH EC, AUSTRALIA, NEW ZEALAND, CANADA, JAPAN AND OTHER MTN DELEGATIONS REGARDING THE APPROACH THEY INTEND TO TAKE IN NEXT WEEK'S AGRICULTURE GROUP MEETING. THE EC TOLD US THAT THEY ARE GOING TO PROPOSE SUBGROUPS FOR GRAINS, DAIRY PRODUCTS, MEAT, AS WELL AS A SUBGROUP FOR SUGAR (IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE GROUP ON TROPICAL PRODUCTS). MOREOVER, THEY INTEND TO PROPOSE A SUBGROUP ON SUBSIDIES AND ONE ON SANITARY AND PHYTOSANITARY QUESTIONS. NEW ZEALAND DELEGATION TOLD US THAT THEY ARE FIRMLY RESOLVED TO PROPOSE A SUBGROUP ON MEAT AND DAIRY PRODUCTS. AUSTRALIA AND CANADA, WHOSE POSITIONS ARE CLOSER TO U.S. POSITION THAN THOSE OF OTHER DELEGATIONS, WILL NEVERTHELESS SUPPORT THE CREATION OF COMMODITY SUBGROUPS. WHILE THE AUSTRALIANS AND PROBABLY THE CANADIANS ARE LIKELY TO INSIST THAT THE WORK OF THE AGRICULTURE GROUP AND THAT OF ANY COMMODITY SUBGROUPS BE IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE WORK OF THE TARIFF GROUP AND THE NTM GROUP, THE CANADIANS SUGGESTED YESTERDAY IN INFORMAL TALKS THAT GENERAL ISSUES SUCH AS AGRICULTURAL SUBSIDIES AND QRS MIGHT BE DISCUSSED SIMULTANEOUSLY WITH, AND POSSIBLY PRIOR TO, SUCH WORK BEING UNDERTAKEN BY THE NTM GROUP. THE JAPANESE, AS THEY EXPLAINED IT TO US, ARE VERY LIKELY TO SUPPORT EC APPROACH EXCEPT THEY STRONGLY OPPOSE GRAINS GROUP DEALING WITH RICE.

3. THE U.S. DELEGATION SO FAR HAS BEEN GUIDED BY REFTEL (A), THAT "AGRICULTURAL ISSUES WILL BE NEGOTIATED PRIMARILY IF NOT ENTIRELY IN THE TARIFF AND NTB GROUPS", AND ALSO, PARAGRAPH (C) OF REFTEL (A) TO THE EFFECT THAT "AGRICULTURE GROUPS COULD BE EITHER FOR DISCUSSION OR NEGOTIATION PURPOSES SUBJECT TO MUTUAL AGREEMENT." LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 STATE 062798

4. THIS GUIDANCE FOLLOWED YESTERDAY WHEN EC REP (DUGIMONT) STATED IN TARIFF GROUP YESTERDAY THAT GENERAL TARIFF REDUCTION FORMULA SHOULD NOT BE APPLIED TO AGRICULTURAL SECTOR, BECAUSE MEANS OF PROTECTION LARGELY NONTARIFF IN NATURE. U.S. REP (MCNAMARA) FOLLOWED WITH STATEMENT IN WHICH POSITION REITERATED THAT TARIFF FORMULA AND NTB WORK MUST TAKE FORM OF RULES APPLICABLE TO INDUSTRIAL AND AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS

ALIKE. THAT ANY SPECIAL CHARACTERISTICS FOUND SHOULD NOT DETRACT FROM DEVELOPMENT OF GENERAL TARIFF NEGOTIATING PLAN. U.S. REP CRITICIZED EC FOR SUGGESTING THAT TARIFF WORK SHOULD BEGIN BY EXCEPTION FOR ONE-QUARTER OF EC TARIFF SCHEDULE, NAMELY, AGRICULTURE.

5. IN VIEW OF THE FOREGOING, IN PARTICULAR CASE U.S. FINDS ITSELF ISOLATED, CHOICE REMAINS OF (1) WHETHER U.S. SHOULD IN THIS EVENTUALITY MAINTAIN UNYIELDING OPPOSITION TO PROPOSALS FOR CREATION OF AGRICULTURE SUBGROUPS AND QUESTIONS OF WORK PROGRAM ASSIGNED TO AGRICULTURE GROUP AND SUBGROUPS, AND ASSIGNMENT AT THIS TIME OF NEGOTIATING RESPONSIBILITY TO AGRICULTURE GROUP AND SUBGROUPS OR (2) ALTERNATIVELY, WHETHER WE SHOULD IN THIS EVENTUALITY SEEK A COMPROMISE AND IF SO THE PRECISE NATURE OF SUCH A COMPROMISE.

6. COMMENT: REPORTEDLY VIEW IS SPREADING IN OTHER MTN DELS THAT U.S. IS TAKING AGRICULTURE OUT OF MTN. THERE IS SUBSTANTIAL RISK THAT U.S. ATTEMPT TO BLOCK WILL OF MAJORITY ON PROCEDURAL ISSUE, WILL RESULT IN INCREASING EC OBSTINANCY TO ANY DISCUSSION OF AGRICULTURAL ISSUES IN TARIFF AND NTM GROUPS. RESULT COULD BE STALEMATE IN AGRICULTURE THAT WE ARE TRYING TO AVOID.

7. RECOMMENDED POSITION; IF THE OTHER MAJOR COUNTRIES CANNOT BE PERSUADED TO REFRAIN FROM ESTABLISHING SUBGROUPS AT THIS TIME, U.S. COULD ACCEPT SUBGROUPS ON GRAIN, MEAT, DAIRY, AND POSSIBLY SUGAR, BUT OTHERS RESISTED. HOWEVER, ON GRAINS SUBGROUP, GIVEN FAILURE TO REACH AGREEMENT IN BRUSSELS MARCH 18 ON GRAINS GENEVA-LONDON ISSUE, GRAINS SUBJGROUP COULD BE NOMINALLY ESTABLISHED IN GENEVA ON TACIT UNDERSTANDING THAT IT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 04 STATE 062798

WOULD BE DORMANT PENDING EVOLUTION OF LONDON TALKS, WITH LATER TIE-IN MADE. SINCE NO AGRICULTURAL GROUP OR SUBGROUPS CAN REACH SUCCESSFUL COMMODITY AGREEMENT WITHOUT U.S. PARTICIPATION, U.S. HAS EFFECTIVE VETO OVER WORK PROGRAM DIRECTION IN SUCH SUBGROUPS. WITH RESPECT FUNCTIONAL AGRICULTURAL SUBGROUPS SUGGESTIONS BY OTHER DELS, SUCH AS PHYTOSANITARY REGULATIONS, SUBSIDIES, PACKAGING, ETC., RECOMMEND U.S. STRONGLY OPPOSE ANY FUNCTIONAL AGRICULTURAL SUBGROUPS EXCEPT PHYTOSANITARY, WHICH COULD WORK IN CONJUNCTION WITH STANDARDS GROUPS.

8. ACTION REQUESTED: REPLY AT LATEST SHOULD BE RECEIVED BY MORNING MARCH 21 GENEVA TIME TO GIVE US SUFFICIENT OPPORTUNITY FOR CONFERRING WITH OTHER

DELEGATIONS. UNDERSTAND RABOT INTENDS TO COME TO
GENEVA TO WORK OUT PROCEDURAL SCENARIO. USDA INVITED
TO PARTICIPATE AT APPROPRIATE LEVEL.

9. NEXT WEEK'S MEETING WILL BE CRUCIAL NOT ONLY FOR
POSITION OF AGRICULTURAL SECTOR IN NEGOTIATIONS BUT
ALSO FOR PROGRESS IN MTN. STALEMATE IN MTN WILL BE
LIKELY RESULT IF U.S. INSISTS NO SUBGROUPS CAN BE
FORMED. WOLFF UNQUOTE INGERSOLL

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AGRICULTURE, INSTRUCTIONS, TARIFF BARRIERS, NONTARIFF BARRIERS, MEETINGS, MEETING DELEGATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 MAR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MorefiRH
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE062798
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: EB/PMCGONAGLE:MH
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750096-0768
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750331/aaaabbyu.tel
Line Count: 178
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN EB
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 STATE 032200, 75 STATE 057274
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MorefiRH
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <16 APR 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <20 MAY 2003 by MorefiRH>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MTN: AGRICULTURE GROUP MEETING, MARCH 24
TAGS: ETRD, US, GATT, MTN
To: PARIS
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006